



Program Resource Advisory Council (IPRAC)

December 14, 2010 Meeting Minutes

(Approved February 8, 2011)

The December 14, 2010 meeting of the IEN Program Resource Advisory Council was held in the Barbara Morgan Conference Room of the Len B. Jordan Building, 650 West State Street, Boise, Idaho.

ATTENDANCE

Members/Alternate(s) Present:

Tom Luna, (Chair) Superintendent of Public Instruction
John Miller, Dean of Off Campus Instruction, College of Southern Idaho
Jerry Reininger, Director of Information Systems, Meridian School District
Cheryl Charlton, CEO, Idaho Digital Learning Academy
Teresa Luna, Interim Director, Dept. of Administration
Sen. John Goedde, Chairman of Senate Education Committee
Sen. Bert Brackett, Joint Finance & Appropriations Committee
Sen. Shawn Keough, Joint Finance & Appropriations Committee (phone)
Rep. Darrell Bolz, Joint Finance & Appropriations Committee

Absent Members

Rep. Bob Nonini, Chairman of House of Representatives Education Committee
Rep. Wendy Jaquet, Joint Finance & Appropriations Committee
Shelly Sayer, Premier Technology Inc.

Others Present:

Sally Brevick, Office of the CIO	Gayle Nelson, ENA (VTC)
Mike Costa, IEN	Jerry Piper, Cambridge Telephone Co.
Robin Finch, Dept. of Administration	Keith Reynolds, Div. of Financial Management
Brady Kraft, IEN	Debra Stephenson-Padilla, IEN
Oliver Landow, ENA	Mike Vance, ENA
Garry Lough, IEN	Greg Zickau, OCIO
Keith Murphy, Qwest	

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

MOTION: Sen. Goedde moved and Dr Miller seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 12, 2010 as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

ALTERNATIVE PROVIDERS

Greg Zickau explained that the alternative provider process, started around September 2010, impacts about 36 schools. These schools had previously been identified as having costs ranging from 100% to 600%, over and above the anticipated costs. Qwest and ENA were asked to look at alternative solutions and they jointly solicited proposals from a variety of internet service providers and local providers.

Qwest and ENA received 12 proposals and engaged Brady Kraft for feedback before providing the IEN with a proposal that the IEN is now in the process of reviewing to ensure it meets the technical, financial and operational needs of the IEN. Some refinements may be necessary in considering the long-term service to the schools.

Questions and Discussion

- Sen. Goedde queried whether the 12 proposals encompassed all 36 schools and whether the IEN was in a position to accept all proposals or pick and choose some of them. Mr Zickau confirmed that it was possible to be selective. He did not believe any of the 12 proposals had provided a solution for all 36 schools and there were several schools for which at least two provider options had been received.
- Sen. Brackett expressed disappointment that the process was not further along and described the “have nots”, those waiting to be connected, as being held hostage. He felt it was a misnomer to say “high cost rural”, more often than not the providers were Syringa or Syringa affiliates. Sen. Brackett hoped there would be more progress to report once the legislature was back in session. Mr Zickau provided some perspective on the situation by explaining that in terms of the overall rollout, the project was on track with about half the districts connected, and those were largely the most rural districts. Also, half of the 36 schools were in Syringa territory and half were not, so this was not just a Syringa issue but involved several providers in various school districts.
- Dr. Reininger questioned whether costs for the 36 sites had been lowered following the alternative-provider proposal from Qwest and ENA. Mr Zickau could not advise site by site but did comment that if the IEN had not been managing the project in this fashion, the total cost of the program would be \$5M per year more than what is currently being funded.

UEN/WEN FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVE

Garry Lough provided the council with a comparison of the UEN, WEN and IEN:

	UEN	WEN	IEN
Annual Budget	\$35,000,000.00	\$7,200,000.00	\$9,300,000.00
Erate Reimbursement	-\$10,000,000.00	-\$2,000,000.00	-\$6,300,000.00
State Appropriate FY09	\$25,000,000.00	\$5,200,000.00	\$3,000,000.00
Services *	\$18,000,000.00	\$700,000.00	\$800,000.00
Connectivity Costs	\$7,000,000.00	\$4,500,000.00	\$2,200,000.00
Available bandwidth	7.0Gbps	1.0Gbps	2.7Gbps
Employees	120	11	2.5
Installed IP Video Classrooms	500	116	200

* IEN/UEN Services include personnel
WEN Services do NOT include personnel

COST PER Gbp \$1,000,000.00 \$4,500,000.00 \$814,814.81

Note: the state-appropriated figure for the IEN will only come into effect in FY2013.

The UEN undertakes consolidated purchasing of websites and blackboard licenses etc. for universities as well as K12. They also maintain their own network (whereas the IEN has outsourced this) and therefore require more staff to manage this in-house.

For both the UEN and the WEN, the E-Rate reimbursement represents about 24% of their annual budgets because they purchase their connectivity and because all management and support is provided by state employees, thereby reducing the amount that is E-Rate eligible. The IEN, on the other hand, has purchased a

managed network service and all of these costs are therefore E-Rate eligible so the IEN only pays 23% of these costs and additionally can reduce the number of staff needed – a double benefit.

The UEN and WEN are facing capacity issues, but the IEN has forecasted growth and therefore has room to expand. Brady Kraft advised that the connectivity costs and cost per gigabit are apple-to-apples comparisons and the cost to each state in appropriated funds is also a valid comparison.

Greg Zickau noted that, within the constructs of the current contract, the annual budget of the IEN would be about \$13.6M but it is in fact less (\$9.3M) because of the continuous efforts to negotiate better deals where it is felt to be appropriate. Further, if Idaho had followed the Utah model and brought a large network in-house, the costs would be even higher. It had been a deliberate decision from the outset to leverage E-Rate dollars wherever possible. Prior to the IEN, states of similar size had been receiving as much as ten times the E-Rate reimbursement that Idaho had been receiving.

UPDATES

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Jerry Reininger reported that the October 6 meeting had included discussion regarding alternative providers (already discussed). Additionally, Brady Kraft had advised that year-end purchasing of Tandberg systems had resulted in savings of about \$219K, and Lenny Simpson of ENA had reported on trouble tickets, indicating overall volume and reasons behind the need for support. ENA's reports are more appropriate for review by the Technical Committee, however Mr Kraft will bring a report example to the next IPRAC meeting. The Technical Committee meeting scheduled for December 1 had been cancelled due to poor travelling conditions.

CONNECTIVITY

Brady Kraft reported that 72 schools in 54 districts are now connected. Mr Kraft commented that Wyoming had initially connected directly to every single school but the resulting network had been unmanageable and ten months ago they had started redeploying their network in the way that the IEN has been configured, by connecting to district aggregation points.

The IEN has now connected 50% of the districts, 25 more districts (68 high schools) are in progress and should be completed by the end of February. A further 20 schools are close to being ordered. Responding to a query regarding the configuration of Lake Pend O'Reille School District, Mr Kraft explained that the WAN (Wide Area Network) for this district, uniquely, was almost entirely microwave wireless. Almost all of the other schools have copper or fiber leading to the aggregation point.

Sen. Goedde asked for clarity regarding the progression of connection status. Mr Kraft explained the basic sequence although a lot of the work happens in parallel:

- 1) "Ordered" – order placed with Qwest.
- 2) "Order in Progress" – order with ENA for verification and back to Qwest to start arranging site surveys and ordering equipment.
- 3) "Site Survey" – engineer dispatched to check for physical obstacles at the site.
- 4) "Telco Ready" – Qwest has completed all work, ENA connecting from property line to school building.

Per Sen. Goedde's request, Mr Kraft will include the process start date and a running total of days in progress as part of the connectivity report. Senator Brackett requested a list of the schools that have not yet been started, which Mr Kraft will provide.

COMMUNICATIONS

Garry Lough's report included:

- Work undertaken with the JA and Kathryn Albertson Foundation public awareness campaign, involving radio advertising, opinion and editorial pieces and KTVB at Noon;
- The placement of five billboards around the state featuring champions of the IEN;
- The Snake River School District coordinating communications via the IEN between Idaho's deployed 116th combat team and their family members.

CURRICULUM

Mr Lough shared graphs showing student numbers and credits earned over the IEN for the past three semesters, a comparison of student numbers by subject and the growth in origination /proctor training. Senator Goedde referred to the minutes of the last meeting and queried the \$250K noted as having been budgeted for content. Mr Lough explained that the \$250K was in fact intended for stipends.

LIVE CLASS EXPERIENCE

Given that all other council business had concluded early, it was agreed that the live class experience would be held another time.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2011 at 1:00pm in the Barbara Morgan Conference Room of the LBJ Building, 650 West State Street.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Brevick".

Sally Brevick, Office of the CIO